17th December 1947]

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" (a) Yes.

" (b) A notice has been issued to the retailer to show cause why his authorization should not be cancelled and his security deposit forfeited to Government. Orders will be passed on receipt of his explanation.

" (c) The Collector of Chingleput has reported that complaints of blackmarketing have come to his notice in certain other ration shops in his district.

" (d) The Collector has already taken action in some cases. As the penalties levies in some of the cases reported are not deterrent, the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) has issued necessary instructions to the Collector."

SRI K. MANATHUNAINATHA DESIGAR :—" Are the Government confident that there will be no blackmarketing after the present increase in the price of rice?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" It is too much for anybody to say."

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is too early to say that."

Buildings purchased from the military authorities at Vizagapatam.

* 192 Q.—SRI P. VEERABHADRASWAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what materials and buildings were purchased by the Government from the military authorities at Vizagapatam and at what cost ;

(b) for what purposes the Government propose to use them ; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to use the buildings for having an Aeronautical and Naval Engineering College?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) & (b) The Government propose to purchase the Military Dairy Farm at Vizagapatam for a price of Rs. 1 lakh for the opening of a Dairy Farm by the Veterinary department and four military sheds in King George Hospital compound, Vizagapatam, for a price of Rs. 1,560 for providing additional accommodation for the hostel students of the Andhra Medical College.

The Government are also negotiating with the Director-General of Disposals, New Delhi, on behalf of the Vizagapatam Municipality for the purchase of the Gosthani Water-supply Installations near Vizagapatam.

It is also proposed to purchase selected items of iron and steel materials available for disposal in the Engineering Park, Vizagapatam, to meet the urgent requirements of 'Grow More Food.' Irrigation and Electricity Schemes.

" (c) No, Sir."

[17th December 1947

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Director-General of Disposals has been asked not to dispose of the Dairy Farm while the negotiations are going on with the Provincial Government? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir, that has been done."

Homeless people of the Madras City.

* 193 *Q.*—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that a very large number of the poor people of Madras City are without homes and are huddled on pavements and streets;

(*b*) whether the Government have made any estimate, even approximately, of the number of such people;

(*c*) if so, the number; and

(*d*) what steps have been taken by the Government to find dwelling places for them?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The Government have not made any estimate of the houseless poor in the City. According to the census taken by the Ladden Committee appointed by the Corporation of Madras the number of houseless poor in the City was 10,748 in 1933. At the present time it may be about a lakh.

" (*d*) The Corporation of Madras are running three beggar homes with a total accommodation for 650 persons. The Government have not so far taken steps to find dwelling places for the poor. The Provincial Housing Committee appointed by the Government are considering this question also and such action as is considered necessary will be taken on receipt of their recommendations."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" May I know why the Municipal Corporation is allowed to waste money on celebrating birthday and presentation of addresses and other similar things, while one lakh of people are going about without homes? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" I believe this has no bearing on this question."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Why is it that money is allowed to be wasted by the Corporation while it could be used for building homes for the poor? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS :—" If you would have sambhar it does not mean you should not have buttermilk."

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" Will Government take steps to see that the poor are not only housed but that a direction is given to Madras Corporation to provide suitable homes for the poor? "